

# Rewald's business ventures cited

By Walter Wright  
Advertiser Staff Writer



Former Bishop Baldwin consultant Jason Wong testified yesterday he set up the firm's Taiwan and Hong Kong offices, and that one of the business ventures proposed was a "technology transfer" which would enable Taiwanese factories to make Pampers diapers.

But when Ronald Rewald's attorneys tried to ask the Honolulu attorney if he had heard anything about "arms deals" in connection with the Taiwan office, federal Judge Harold Fong sustained the prosecution's objection that the question was irrelevant.

Rewald has claimed privately — and the claims have been published and broadcast widely — that the company was involved in a secret arms deal to provide weapons to Taiwan in a way that would circumvent

U.S. agreements with the People's Republic of China.

Rewald, on trial on 98 federal counts of fraud, perjury and tax evasion, says he received money under false pretenses, but only to maintain his cover as a wealthy businessman while spying for the CIA.

The CIA says it used Bishop Baldwin for \$3,000 worth of telephone and telex services and some stationery to provide commercial cover for several CIA personnel. But it denies creating or controlling the company.

The collapse and bankruptcy of Bishop Baldwin in 1983 led to state and federal criminal charges against Rewald that

\$22 million in investors' funds were obtained under false pretenses.

One witness testified yesterday that the first time Rewald went through a bankruptcy, in Wisconsin in 1976, Rewald "had some money put away" and put some cars in a relative's name so the bankruptcy court wouldn't take them.

Dr. Wesley Vogt, a Milwaukee psychiatrist who said he has been a friend of Rewald since 1972, said he invested money with Rewald in Hawaii in 1976 because he thought Rewald's Wisconsin bankruptcy was just bad luck.

He said he believed Rewald and others also were investing money in the new venture, called Elawati Pacific Sports, and that Rewald had personal funds he had protected from the earlier bankruptcy.

Vogt was one of two Milwaukee residents who said yesterday they entered money-losing

deals with Rewald because they trusted him as a close personal friend.

Both said they were impressed with Rewald's lifestyle and his claims that he graduated with a business degree from Marquette University and played professional football.

Frank Bevaek, a funeral director for 23 years in the Milwaukee area, said he met Rewald in 1960 when they were both attending Milwaukee Area Technical College.

Bevaek said he invested \$25,000 in 1976 in Consolidated Mutual Investment Inc., joining Rewald in an attempt to rebuild the nearly bankrupt Riverside Athletic Company. The effort failed, Rewald departed for Hawaii and Bevaek lost his investment, he said.

Bevaek said he had no idea that Rewald took a successor company, CMI Inc., to Hawaii and eventually merged it with a firm called Bishop Baldwin Rewald Dillingham & Wong.

The testimony about Rewald's early claims to a Marquette University degree is expected to undercut his current assertion that the CIA promised to provide him with such a degree for his "cover."

Both Milwaukee men said they were impressed with Rewald's lake-front house in Mequon, Wis., his stories of associations with water ski show impresario Tommy Bartlett and his string of expensive cars, including a Cadillac, two Corvettes and a Thunderbird.